THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The cottage and small scale industries (SSIs), spread all over the country have been consistently showing increase in production, employment and exports. As per the Planning Commission, employment through such units is targeted to cross 697 lakhs by 2001-2002.

(b) Promotion of cottage and small scale industries has been one of the conscious policies of the Government. During the last three years, a number of steps have been taken in this regard. These include enhancement of limits of project cost for funding under National Equity Fund of SIDBI, increase in limit of composite loans, Specialised SSI bank branches, raising of exemption limit for excise, National Programme for Rural Industrialisations etc. In addition, a comprehensive policy package was announced on 30th August, 2000 which *inter alia* includes easier access to credit, availability of collateral free composite loans upto Rs. 25.00 lakhs, capital subsidy for technological upgradation and improved infrastructure.

Budget allocation for Space Research

4559. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the Budget allocation for Space Research during the last five years;

(b) whether it is a fact that India could not make any advancement in Space Research;

(c) the achievement of Space Research in India; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the country is lagging behind in Space Research and Ocean Research because of lack of Government's interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The budget allocation for Space Research in the past five years is given below:

Year	Budget allocation (Rupees in crores)
2000-2001	1913.78
1999-2000	1677.39
1998-1999	1401.70
1997-1998	1050.50
1996-1997	1065.32

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The major accomplishment of Space Research in India is the self-reliant development of world class satellites and satellite launch vehicles and utilising the space systems in several areas relevant to national development in a cost effective manner. The multipurpose INSAT Satellite System which is one of the largest domestic satellite systems in the world is the main stay for the Television broadcasting services through connectivity to more than 1100 Television Transmitters, networking of radio stations, provision of cyclone warnings, gathering meteorological data, assisting weather forecasting and providing search and rescue support. These satellites are also extensively used for transmission of developmental programmes in rural areas and for educational training. The Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS) system is among the best in the world for generating information useful for management of natural resources including location of zones of availability of ground water and monitoring of agricultural crops. The data from IRS satellites are used worldwide on a commercial basis. India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) is well proven through four successive successful flights and it provides self-reliant launch capability to orbit Remote Sensing Satellites of 1.2 ton class in polar sun synchronous orbits. The Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) has been successfully flight tested on 18th April, 2001, making India the sixth nation in the

world to demonstrate capabilities for geostationery satellite launch. Front ranking scientific investigations are being carried out in the fields of astronomy, atmospheric sciences and long term climatic research using satellites, balloons, sounding rockets and ground instruments. In a nutshell, it has been recognised world-wide that Indian Space Programme's Contributions to several areas of national development *via-a-vis* its modest budget allocations are significant.

(d) No, Sir.

Assistance from Russia for GSLV

4560. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to re-launch the Geo-synchronous Satellite Launching Vehicle in the orbit shortly;

(b) if so, by when the re-launching preparation would be completed;

(c) how much expenditure is likely to be re-incurred for the purpose;

(d) whether Government are not taking any assistance in this connection from Russia; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle-D1 (GSLV-D1) has been successfully launched on 18th April, 2001 placing GSAT-1 in Geosynchronous transfer orbit.

(c) Provision for launch abort is part of the launch countdown. All the vehicle systems were healthy and reusable. The disassembled engine also can be reused after refurbishment. The re-launch attempt called for marginal additional network hiring charges, propellants and gases, which are provided for. It is important to note that the experience, gained through the safe abort and fast recovery, is invaluable. The additional expenditure involved would not be significant.